

# FACT SHEET



## Protecting Immigrant Neighbors

**Problem:** Immigrants and people of color are scared to continue everyday civic life, whether they have a documented presence in the United States. Federally and locally, there are examples of law enforcement officers abusing their positions to unjustly detain members of local communities. According to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) data, nearly 70% of those booked into Central Virginia ICE facilities since 2025 have no criminal record. The Commonwealth of Virginia must take measures to restrict immigration enforcement from over policing our communities.

**Solution:** People of faith want to see Virginia's legislature stand with the immigrant community. The Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy supports limiting indiscriminate immigration enforcement around Virginia.

### Protecting Sensitive Locations

**HB 650** – Callsen, Glass, Lopez, Shin  
**SB 351** – Salim

The House version of this bill would limit civil arrests, including immigration arrests, in certain facilities owned by state and local government. That means that people could go to school, public hospitals, polling places, and courthouses without fear of detention based on immigration status. The Senate version of the bill specifically focuses on preventing civil arrests in courthouses.

These bills make sure people who are trying to comply with the law are treated fairly. In addition, these bills protect people against discrimination when exercising human rights to access school, health care, or legal support. Neither bill would prevent criminal arrests or impede detaining someone with a judicial warrant.

### Limit collaboration with immigration enforcement

**HB 1441** – Lopez, Guzman  
**SB 783** – Salim

These bills would prevent local police from being deputized by ICE. Local law enforcement should be focused on keeping communities safe. Some local police have entered 287(g) agreements or Intergovernmental Service Agreements, which force officers to perform federal duties. In addition, there are informal agreements around detaining immigrants and asking status. These actions decrease trust in police, negatively impacting public safety and misusing local resources.

**Conclusion:** Both policies are focused on community safety and public trust. The bills would not prevent law enforcement from pursuing legitimate criminal cases. Instead, they support innocent community members in maintaining stability and trust.

Virginia lawmakers must ensure that local and state law enforcement aren't detaining people based on perceived immigration status, and that our communities continue to be welcoming places for all residents. These changes in state policy, take steps to protect immigrant communities from unlawful or dangerous treatment and maintain peace in our neighborhoods.

**Background:** Across many faith traditions, treating neighbors with fairness and respect is a priority. There is a special call to welcome immigrants and strangers within the community. With immigration making national headlines, it is crucial that Virginia support residents who were born in other countries.

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